Purchase of Drugs for TB and Leprosy Programmes

4579. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what rates of bulk drugs Rifampicin and Ethambutol were taken into consideration while finalising rate contract for these drugs during 1987-88;

(b) whether it is a fact that one or two companies have monopolised the sales of these drugs;

(c) whether it is a fact that the import content per kg. of production of Rifampicin is $ 209 whereas the import price of Rifampicin is $ 140 kg., and

(d) the reasons for which imports have been discontinued without changes in policy to support over-invoicing and justify purchases at a high price?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) The High Power Committee of the Director General of Supplies and Disposal finalises the rate contract for purchase of drugs.

(b) No specific information is available in this Department.

(c) and (d) The import content of Rifampicin per kg. was about Rs. 2437.80 when the price was fixed in January, 1987. The import content of Ethambutol per kg. was about Rs. 480.04 per kg. when the price was fixed in August, 1988. International prices of bulk drugs and intermediates fluctuate widely from time to time. No specific instance of over invoicing has come to the notices of my Ministry.

Marketing of Valporic Acid

4580. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 677 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 1988 and state :

(a) whether there is any drug under the name Valporic Acid cleared for use in India;

(b) if so, who is producing this drug or its formulations in the country;

(c) on what basis it has been included in the list of drugs recommended for price control by the Kelkar Committee;

(d) what is the status of Category-II formulations which are produced by small scale sector units and marketed by organised sector units; and

(e) what are the provisions in the new policy relating to trading activity of organised sector units in respect of formulations produced by small scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Kelkar Committee has recommended the referred drug on basis of its inclusion in WHO's list.